



January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It amazes me that there has been such a prevalent attitude in our government that sees virtue in punishing those that are successful, and rewarding those that are not. This upside down attitude of "redistribution" was never more tragically obvious than in this questionable lawsuit against Microsoft. Any company as successful as Microsoft must do everything it can to protect its position of strength. The government erroneously sees this as dominance, rather than strength. With that redefinition comes an entire new set of problems that now create a case against Microsoft for "unfair competition."

That Microsoft tightly controls the use of its product – even with its OEMs – is simply good business. It is not unfair business. There have been many competing systems that have come and gone. They have fallen out of favor not because of Microsoft's dominance per se, but rather because of Microsoft's superior products and service.

Please do not misunderstand me. I do not march lock-step with Microsoft, but for me, if the government can go after Microsoft with such evangelical zeal, then the government can go after any IT business. This settlement, therefore, is good and should hopefully end the hostilities. I am totally in support of that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Hengen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vicki Hengen
President

cc: Representative Jeff Flake